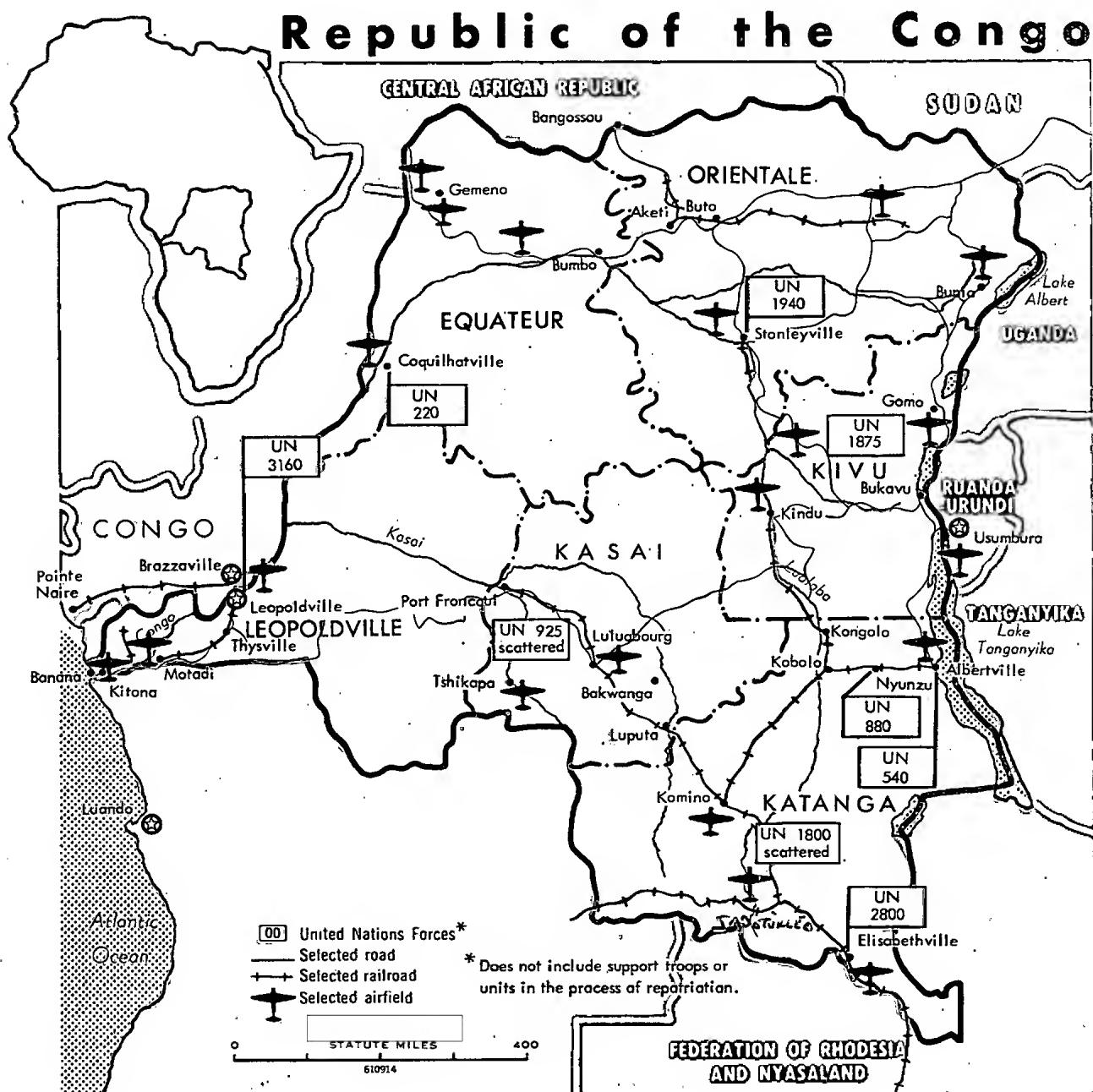


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

15 SEPTEMBER 1961

~~TOP SECRET~~



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1. Berlin developments

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A. [redacted]

Communists plan some move against Berlin [redacted]

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[redacted] to put additional temporary restrictions on the border for the East German local elections on Sunday. Some, however, contend that commercial air traffic to the city is to be interrupted.

B. Yesterday a US commercial aircraft bound for Berlin in bad weather strayed from the corridor; it was intercepted and identified but not harassed by Soviet fighters. Subsequently, Soviet fighters made identification passes at two other commercial flights outbound from Berlin. There have been similar incidents in the past.

C. Also yesterday, two West German fighters, lost over East Germany and short of fuel, were directed by the West Berlin air traffic control to Tegel airfield in the French sector of Berlin. The Soviets have asked that aircraft and pilots be detained; the French have agreed to comply; the West Germans have apologized. Communist propagandists can be expected to make the most of it.

D. So far today, apparently, nothing further has happened. [redacted]

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2. Congo developments



A. Late press reports show that heavy fighting is still in progress in Elisabethville. Katangan forces, instigated and led by European mercenaries, appear to be at least holding their own, and may have forced the UN onto the defensive. Yesterday the US Consulate reported that the UN hoped to clear the city today using Malayan reinforcements with armored cars. We do not know whether these troops have arrived.

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B. The situation elsewhere in Katanga is unclear. Reinforcements to relieve the Irish company surrounded in Jadotville were scheduled to arrive yesterday afternoon. The UN air base at Kamina seems also to be under attack.

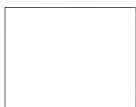
C. Tshombé, who is still in Elizabethville, is claiming Katanga is still independent and is defying the UN.

A pro-Tshombé "Radio Free Katanga," which the Consulate believes Belgian-manned, came on the air yesterday.

D. The UN is trying to arrange a cease-fire with the help of Vice President Kibwe.

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3. Indications of Soviet
interest in early Laos
settlement



The Soviet delegate in Geneva told Ambassador Harriman on Tuesday that the USSR was ready to come to an agreement, and would guarantee that a neutralist government under Souvanna-- modeled on Finland--would be maintained even after elections. He claimed the USSR would be able to restrain North Vietnam.

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NOTES

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- A. There are indications that the nuclear test near Kapustin Yar on 6 September had some connection with the Soviet anti-ballistic missile program. [REDACTED]
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- B. Extensive press reporting yesterday on rail breaks in Communist China may partly be a reflection of scheduled Nationalist sabotage operations, but we have not yet received any confirmation that these operations were carried out. [REDACTED]
- 50X1
- C. Menderes, Bayar, and eight other ousted Turkish officials have been condemned to death and will probably be executed in the next few days. [REDACTED]
- 50X1
- D. The Afghan Foreign Minister will visit Moscow on Saturday, probably as a demonstration of Afghanistan's willingness to turn to the USSR for support against Pakistan. [REDACTED]
- 50X1
- E. The USSR will shortly sign an agreement on favorable terms with Italy for the purchase of six 47,500 ton tankers to be built over the next four years. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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